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REFERENCE: UE 431E/1

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ATTACHMENT TO L-1030
27 JUNE 1966
PAGE 1

Declassification Review by NGA/DoD

AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
YEN BAI AREA, NORTH VIETNAM
2143N 10451E

22

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS AN AIRFIELD, PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO BE A SUSPECT AIRFIELD, TO BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR YEN BAI, NORTH VIETNAM.

2. LOCATION:

THE AIRFIELD IS LOCATED 1.7 NM NORTHWEST OF YEN BAI.

3. BACKGROUND:

PHOTOGRAPHY OF THIS AREA IN LATE [] REVEALED ONLY ISOLATED AREA 25X1
OF DWELLINGS AND RICE PADDIES ALONG THE HIGHWAY PARALLEL TO THE HA NOI-LAO
CAI RAIL LINE, AND IN SEVERAL AREAS IN THE VALLEYS BETWEEN THE KARST HILLS
NORTH OF THE RED RIVER. THREE ROAD SEGMENTS, LEADING FROM THE MAIN UNNUMBER-
ED ROAD, APPEARED TO BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF LATE [] REVEALED AN AREA OF UNIDENTIFIED 25X1
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY 2.3 NM NORTHWEST OF YEN BAI. GROUND SCARRING INDICATED
THAT EXTENSIVE EARTH MOVING ACTIVITY WAS TAKING PLACE. ONE LARGE AND SEVERAL
MINOR DRAINAGE CANALS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED ADJACENT TO THE AREA OF THE EARTH
MOVING ACTIVITY. A PARTIALLY COMPLETED EXTENSIVE ROAD NETWORK WITH CONNECT-
ING LINKS TO NUMEROUS NEW STORAGE AREAS WAS OBSERVED. A LARGE AREA OF WIDELY
DISPERSED STORAGE/SUPPORT BUILDINGS AT THE BASE OF THE KARST HILLS WAS NOTED.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

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[]
ATTACHMENT TO L-1030
27 JUNE 1966
PAGE 2

VEHICLES AND PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT WERE OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF LATE [] REVEALED THE PREVIOUSLY UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY TO BE A SUSPECT AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THE SUSPECT AIRFIELD CONSISTED OF AN APPROXIMATELY 6600 FT. X 600 FT. AREA OF EARTH MOVING ACTIVITY ORIENTED IN A NORTHWEST/SOUTHEAST DIRECTION. THE KARST HILLS IN THIS AREA WERE BEING LEVELED BY BULLDOZERS. THE MATERIAL OBTAINED FROM THIS OPERATION WAS USED TO FILL IN THE VALLEYS BETWEEN THE HILLS AND TO BUILD NEW ROADS IN THE AREA. NUMEROUS PIECES OF UNIDENTIFIED EQUIPMENT WERE OBSERVED.

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4. COLLATERAL/COMINT:

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ATTACHMENT TO L-1030
27 JUNE 1966
PAGE 3

25X1

25X1

5. MISSION READOUT:

UE 431E/1, 02 JUNE 1966, REVEALS CONTINUING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY ON AN AIRFIELD NEAR YEN BAI. CONSTRUCTION ON THE RUNWAY BASE IS PROGRESSING AT AN INCREASED RATE. GRADING AND LEVELING HAVE EXTENDED THE AIRFIELD AREA TO APPROXIMATELY 10,500 FT. X 950 FT. ORIENTED IN A NORTHWEST/SOUTHEAST DIRECTION AND INCLUDES ROADS AT BOTH ENDS OF THE RUNWAY.

AT LEAST EIGHTY PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, SOME OF WHICH ARE TRACK-MOUNTED AND/OR CANVAS-COVERED AND SOME THAT ARE IN REVEITEMENTS, ARE OBSERVED.

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25X1

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ATTACHMENT TO L-1030
27 JUNE 1966
PAGE 4

A PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ROAD NETWORK IN THE AREA IS OBSERVED TO BE IN LATE STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION. SEVERAL NEW ROADS AND NEW STORAGE AREAS ARE NOTED NORTHEAST OF THE RUNWAY. NEW HOUSING, OPEN STORAGE, AND POL DRUM STORAGE AREAS ARE ALSO OBSERVED. APPROXIMATELY THREE HUNDRED STORAGE/SUPPORT BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED SINCE [REDACTED] THE STORAGE AREA AND ADJACENT CENT PARKING AREA ARE LOCATED NORTHEAST OF THE RUNWAY. (NOT ALL SHOWN ON GRAPHIC).

AN ELABORATE DRAINAGE SYSTEM, CONSISTING OF DRAINAGE CANALS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE RUNWAY, APPEARS TO BE IN LATE STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION.

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS CONSIST OF THIRTEEN OCCUPIED LIGHT AAA SITES (FORTY-THREE POSITIONS PROBABLY OCCUPIED AND FIVE POSITIONS UNOCCUPIED) AND AT LEAST TWENTY-TWO UNOCCUPIED LIGHT AAA SITES. NUMEROUS TRENCHES, FOXHOLES, AND AW POSITIONS ARE OBSERVED.

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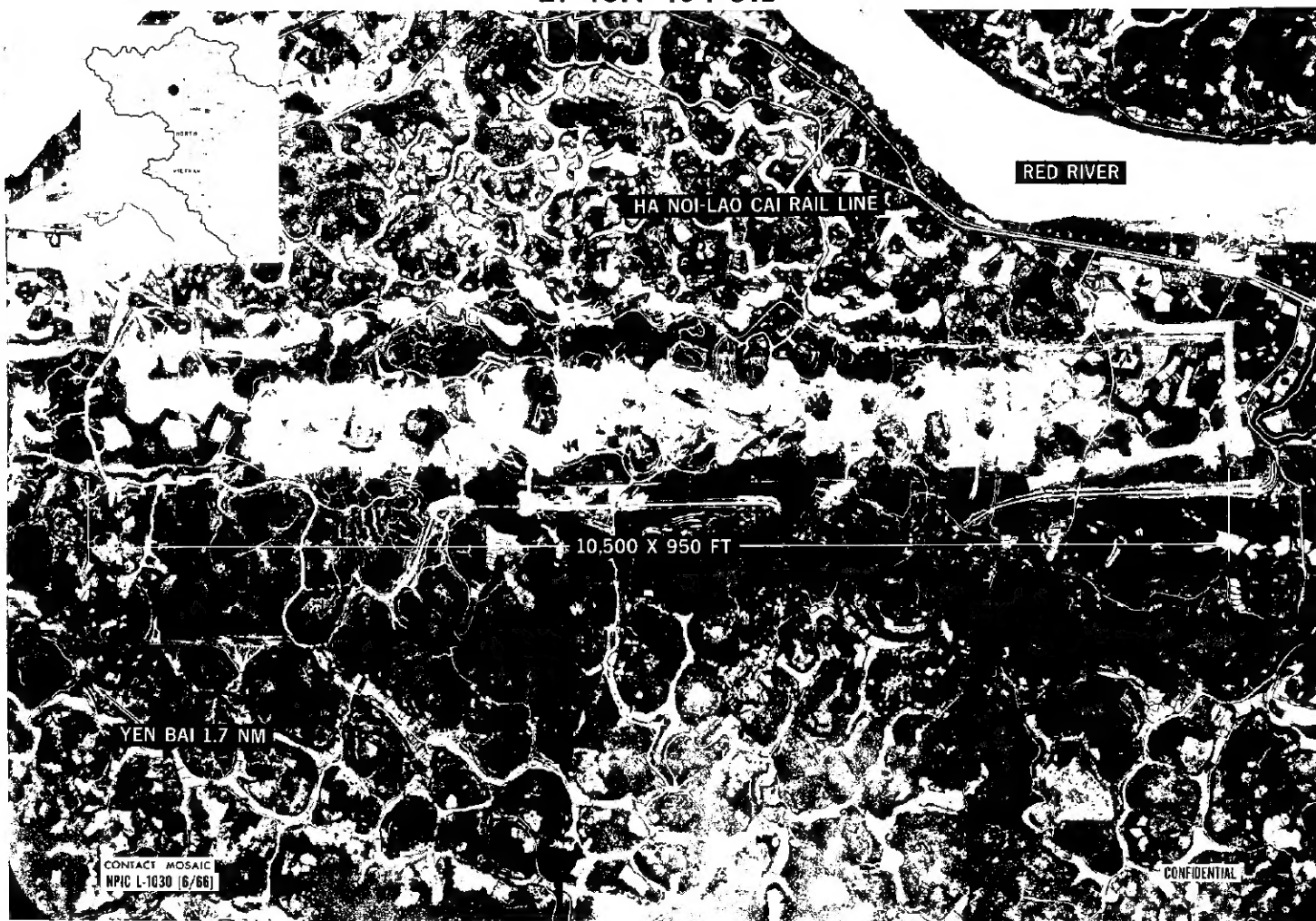
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MISSION UE 431E/1. 2 JUNE 1966

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AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
YEN BAI AREA, NORTH VIETNAM
21-43N 104-51E



PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE SCENE IN
THE AREA OF THE CRASH AND
THE REMAINS OF THE
PLANE.

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